

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of this application as examined pursuant to the office action of December 11, 2006. In the office action, Claims 1-27 were examined. By the accompanying amendment, Claims 6-7 and 16-27 have been cancelled. Claims 28-41 have been added. Claims 1-5, 8-15, and 28-41 are pending after entry of this Amendment.

Claims 1-27 were rejected in the pending office action under 35 USC § 102(b) as being unpatentable over a published PCT application to Huff et al., WIPO Publication No. WO99/57625 ("Huff").

The Applicants' representative wishes to express his appreciation to the examiner for the time and attention provided in the March 7, 2007, telephone interview in which the present invention and the Huff reference were discussed. The examiner summarized the outcome of that interview in the March 12, 2007, Interview Summary.

The Applicants have taken this opportunity to amend the claims to distinguish the present invention more clearly from the system of the cited reference and in accordance with the examiner interview. Primarily, independent Claim 1 has been amended to state that the method of the present invention includes the step of excluding from at least one of the plurality of interconnection devices a common agent framework for effecting signal transfer policy changes. Similarly, new independent Claim 30 describes the system of the present includes the limitation that there is no common agent framework distributed among the plurality of interconnection devices to establish therein either or both of the intrusion detection function and the function to change selectively the signal transfer policies.

Applicants respectfully suggest that the amendment made to independent Claim 1 and the noted limitation in new independent Claim 30 clearly distinguish the present invention from the system described in the cited reference.

The 35 USC § 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-27 as filed were rejected as being anticipated by Huff. As Applicants' representative and the examiner agreed, the present invention does not require the placement of a common agent framework in all interconnection devices of the network, whereas the Huff

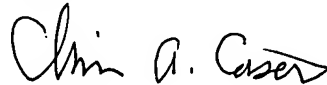
system clearly does. The pending claims now include in the description of the present invention that a common agent framework is not required for all interconnection devices. In view of the amendments made to the independent claims and the arguments presented herein, Applicants respectfully suggest that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of the claims based on Huff has been successfully traversed. Withdrawal of that rejection is therefore requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments made to the claims and the remarks made herein and in the March 7, 2007, interview, Applicants respectfully suggest that the rejection under 35 § 102(b) has been successfully traversed. Allowance of pending Claims 1-5, 8-15, and 28-41 is therefore requested.

By this amendment, 14 claims have been canceled and 14 have been added. Previous filing fees have been paid for a total of 27 claims. There are presently 27 claims pending. Therefore, no additional filing fee is required.

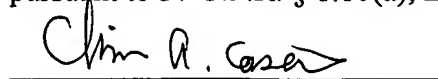
Respectfully submitted,



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